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TAGS: EAGR, EPAP, UR

SUBJECT: PRODUCTION OF FOOD INDUSTRY, FEBRUARY 1978

- 1. SUMMARY. JAN-FEB FOOD INDUSTRY PRODUCTION REPORT IN EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA (SEE PARA 5) CONTAINS NO NEW BASIC TRENDS FROM THOSE INDICATED IN JANUARY. END SUMMARY.
- 2. THE RAPID RATE OF INCREASE IN MEAT OUTPUT IN JAN 1978
 OVER JAN 1977 DROPPED BACK SOMEWHAT IN FEB, BUT TOTAL OUTTURN FOR THESE TWO MONTHS WAS ABOVE 1974 LEVELS. IT WAS
 STILL BELOW 1976 AND 1975 PRODUCTION LEVELS. REMEMBER
 THAT 1976 FIGURES WERE SOMEWHAT DISTORTED BY WHAT APPEARS
 TO HAVE BEEN CONTINUED DISASTER SLAUGHTER IN JANUARY OF
 THAT YEAR. 1975 WAS THE RECORD YEAR, AND THE YEAR WHICH
 THE SOVIETS MUST SURPASS TO REACH THEIR OVERALL TARGET OF
 15.6 MMT FOR ALL CATEGORIES OF MEAT, FROM BOTH SOCIALIZED
 AND PRIVATE SECTORS. FOOD INDUSTRY OUTPUT OF MEAT IN
 JAN AND FEB OF 1975 WAS 1,588 TMT, COMPARED TO ONLY 1,318
 THIS YEAR, A SHORTFALL OF 270 TMT. A SLIGHT COMPARABLE
 INCREASE IN SAUSAGE PRODUCTION BETWEEN THE TWO YEAR'S
 REDUCES THE SHORTFALL TO 246 TMT. IN VIEW OF REPORTED
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LIVESTOCK POPULATION AND FEED SITUATION, THE CURRENT PACE SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS MEANINGFUL, BUT IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE.

3. THE DEGREE OF SOVIET CONCERN ABOUT ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE GOALS IS, REFLECTED IN A FRONT PAGE PRAVDA ARTICLE OF 3/14 WHICH ALSO CONTAINS SOME INTERESTING PROCUREMENT

FIGURES AND GOALS. IN BRIEF, IT RECAPS LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY (LIVE WEIGHT) PURCHASES BY THE STATE AND OTHER PROCUREMENTS FOR FEB AND MARCH AS FOLLOWS (IN TMT):

- - IN PERCENT OF 1ST QUARTER

PROCUREMENT GOAL

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY 2,451.4 63

MILK - 7,081.1 61

EGGS (MIL, PIECES) 6.518.1 69

IT GOES ON TO NAME THE REPUBLICS WHOSE SOCIALIZED SALES IN JAN AND FEB EXCEEDED 1977 SALES FOR THE SAME PERIOD INCLUDING RSFSR, UKRAINE, KAZAKHSTAN, BYELORUSSIA, "AND OTHERS". AZERBAIJAN, GEORGIA, KIRKHIZ, MOLDAVIA AND LITHUANIA ARE CREDITED WITH ALREADY REACHING BETWEEN 87-95 PERCENT OF THEIR PROCUREMENT GOALS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER, BUT LATVIA AND ESTONIA ARE SINGLED OUT AS BEHIND IN THEIR PURCHASES.

3. THE DROP IN BUTTER PRODUCTION THIS YEAR IS NOT SIGNIFICANT, AND PROBABLY REFLECTS ADMINISTRATIVE SHIFTS TOWARD HIGHER CHEESE OR FLUID MILK OUTPUT. REGARDING VEGETABLE OIL OUTTURN, KEEP IN MIND THAT BOTH 1976 AND 1977 WERE POOR YEARS.

4. PRODUCTION OF FOOD INDUSTRY, CENTRALIZED SECTOR ONLY, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY (MILLION METRIC TONS): LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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- JANUARY & JANUARY & 1978 AS 1978 AS
 - FEBRUARY FEBRUARY PERCENT PERCENT
 - 1978 1977 1976

 MEAT
 1,318
 1,189
 110
 93

 SAUSAGE
 468
 451
 104
 105

 BUTTER
 126
 130
 97
 117

 WHOLE MILK
 3.9
 3.7
 104
 108

 VEGETABLE OIL
 528
 453
 114
 123

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